

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /032 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1234

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EO 11652: DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, ZA

SUBJECT: REPORTED GRZ CANCELLATION OF IMPORT LICENSES

REF: STATE 023114

1. ZAMBIAN PRESS JAN 27 ANNOUNCED GRZ HAD CANCELLED ALL OUTSTANDING IMPORT LICENSES ISSUED FROM JAN 1, 1974, TO PRESENT. ALL HOLDERS OF VALID IMPORT LICENCES REQUIRED TO REAPPLY FOR REISSUANCE. IN MAKING ANNOUNCEMENT, MINISTER OF COMMERCE KUNDA SAID GRZ HAD DECIDED TO REEXAMINE IMPORTATION OF ALL GOODS AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE IN VIEW OF NEED TO CONSERVE FOREIGN RESERVES. IN REAPPLYING FOR IMPORT LICENSES, IMPORTERS WHO HAVE ALREADY FINANCIALLY COMMITTED THEMSELVES ARE REQUIRED TO SHOW DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THAT IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

2. THE ZAMBIAN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION (ZINCOM) PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS JAN 29 NOTICE THAT THE MINISTRY HAS GIVEN ZINCOM ASSURANCE THAT ANY LICENCE ON WHICH A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT HAS BEEN INCURRED WILL BE HONORED. IN RESUBMITTING APPLICATIONS, IMPORTERS ARE URGED TO SEPARATE LICENCES INTO TWO CATEGORIES: THOSE SUPPORTED BY DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENT AND THOSE ON WHICH NO ORDERS HAVE BEEN PLACED.

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3. GRZ MOVE HAS NATURALLY CAUSED CONCERN IN BUSINESS
COMMUNITY BUT GREATEST WORRY SEEMS TO DERIVE FROM
SLOWNESS OF GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY RATHER THAN FEAR
THAT LARGE NUMBER OF LICENCES WILL BE DISALLOWED IN
THIS REEXAMINATION PROCESS. EMBASSY BELIEVES
THAT, APART FROM INCONVENIENCE TO ZAMBIANS
IMPORTERS AND DELAYS IN REPROCESSING IMPORT
LICENCE REQUESTS, AMERICAN EXPORTS ALREADY ORDERED
AND/OR SHIPPED WILL NOT BE AFFECTED. WE EXPECT GRZ WILL
BE MUCH MORE SELECTIVE IN APPROVING NEW LICENSES FOR
LUXURY ITEMS, FEW OF WHICH ARE NOW SUPPLIED BY US.
BULK OF US EXPORTS TO ZAMBIA SUCH AS TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT
AND MACHINERY SHOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE LIBERAL IMPORT
LICENCE TREATMENT.
WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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